



CHAIRMAN

Mike Beeson

Lichfield Science & Engineering Society

PATRON

Mr Ian Dudson CBE

HM Lord Lieutenant of Staffordshire

LICHFIELD **GARRICK**
Theatre & Studio

PRESIDENT

Professor Carolyn Roberts
FRGS, FIEEnvSc, FCIWEM, CEnv, CWEM

8:00 pm on Tuesday, 6th October 2020
A virtual lecture via Zoom

MIND THE GAP: HOW GENDER STEREOTYPES CAN CHANGE OUR BRAINS

Professor Gina Rippon
University of Aston

Professor Gina Rippon is Emeritus Professor of Cognitive Neuroimaging at the Aston Brain Centre. She is a past-President of the British Association of Cognitive Neuroscience and, in 2015, was awarded an Honorary Fellowship of the British Science Association. Her research involves state-of-the-art brain imaging techniques to investigate developmental disorders such as dyslexia and autism. She also investigates the use of neuroscience techniques to explore social processes including gender stereotyping and stereotype threat. She is an outspoken critic of 'neurotrash', the populist (mis)use of neuroscience research to (mis)represent our understanding of the brain and, most particularly, to prop up outdated stereotypes.

She is active in the field of the public communication of science and has spoken at many science festivals such as those at Cheltenham, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Norwich, as well as New Scientist Live. As a member of Speakers4schools she regularly addresses secondary schools on brain-based topics. She writes for popular science outlets such as The Conversation, New Scientist, Aeon and contributes to programmes such as Horizon and The Infinite Monkey Cage. Her book 'The Gendered Brain' came out in February 2019.

This talk will review the argument that women and men are born with different brains and that this is what causes sex differences in behaviour, in personalities and temperaments, in skills and achievements. But 21st century neuroscience is revealing that understanding what goes on outside our heads is just as important as what goes on inside and may offer better explanations for the persistence of gender gaps in today's world. A gendered world can produce a gendered brain.